

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02225 131825Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 SAJ-01 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /167 W

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R 131655Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7683

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2225

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA

SUBJ: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS

SUMMARY. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN COPENHAGEN SEPTEMBER 16-19. AMONG PRINCIPAL MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION ARE (A) NEW POLITICAL PROGRAM FOR THE COMING FOUR YEARS (B) TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY (C) GROWING RADICALISM WITHIN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AND (D) CONFRONTATION WITH PARTY'S DISSATISFIED LEFT-WING. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 COPENH 02225 131825Z

1. QUADRENNIAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS IS SHAPING UP AS MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT. PARTY HAS IN THE

LAST NINE MONTHS SUFFERED STEADY EROSION OF POPULAR SUPPORT BOTH TO THE LEFT AND, PRIMARILY, TO THE RIGHT. RECENT POLLS INDICATE ITS POPULAR SUPPORT ONLY ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF TOTAL ELECTORATE, FAR DOWN FROM 40 PER CENT WHICH PARTY CONSIDERS ITS TRADITIONAL MINIMUM LEVEL. CONGRESS THUS FINDS PARTY AT ITS LOWEST EBB IN PART FORTY YEARS. SETBACK SUFFERED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY FRATERNAL PARTY IN NORWAY HAS NATURALLY NOT IMPROVED MORALE AND PALME'S DIFFICULTIES IN SWEDEN ARE RAISING FEARS ABOUT GENERAL TREND IN SCANDINAVIA.

2. CAUSES OF PARTY'S DECLINE ARE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ATTRIBUTED LOSS TO DIVISIVE EFFECTS OF EC ACCESSION CAMPAIGN AND TO RISING PRICES, FOLLOWING ACCESSION. PARTY'S VOCAL, ORGANIZED, AND RADICAL LEFT-WING ATTRIBUTES DECLINE TO LACK OF A CLEAR SOCIALIST PROGRAM, WHICH COULD ATTRACT YOUTH AND LABOR ELEMENTS WHO ARE NOW TENDING TOWARD SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) AND COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP). PARTY'S RIGHT-WING CLAIMS DECLINE DUE TO RESENTMENT AMONG PRAGMATIC, ESSENTIALLY NON-SOCIALIST, MIDDLE-CLASS SUPPORTERS OVER LEFT-WING EXCESSES IN PARTY POLICY DURING PAST YEAR. AS EXAMPLES, THEY CITE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL, STATE SUBSIDY FOR PORNOGRAPHIC FILM ON LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST AND GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CRACK DOWN ON COPENHAGEN HIPPIY HAVEN, CHRISTIANIA, WHERE 1,500 YOUTHS ARE SQUATING IN ABANDONED MILITARY BARRACKS AREA.

3. FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE CLEARLY WILL BE THAT OF PARTY LEADERSHIP AND ALL FACTIONS ARE AGREED THAT ANKER JORGENSEN'S LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN FACTOR IN PARTY'S CURRENT MALAISE. RIGHT-WING DISSATISFACTION, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE FIGURE AROUND WHICH TO FOCUS. MOST LIKELY SUCH FIGURE IS ORLA MOLLER, BUT HE REFUSES TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST JORGENSEN. LATTER'S CONTINUED LEADERSHIP, THEREFORE, DOES NOT APPEAR SERIOUSLY THREATENED. ALTHOUGH PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE POSTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY CHAIRMAN IS CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03 COPENH 02225 131825Z

EXPECTED TO BE MADE FROM FLOOR, AD HOC COMMITTEE HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PARTY UNITY BE INSURED BY MAINTAINING TRADITION THAT ONE MAN HOLDS BOTH POSTS. ELECTION OF PRESENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE KJELD OLESEN AS VICE-CHAIRMAN IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED, SINCE HE IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL FACTIONS AND PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN DAY-TO-DAY PARTY ADMINISTRATION.

4. FIREWORKS ARE APT TO BE IGNITED DURING GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE IN WHICH PARTY'S LEFT-WING WILL COME

UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND PRAGMATIC RIGHT-WING BLOC OF PARTY REGULARS. LEFT-WING LEADERSHIP, REPRESENTING THE STILL UNRECONCILED ANTI-EC ELEMENT IN THE PARTY, MAY BE PRESENTED WITH AN ULTIMATUM -- ADHERE TO POLICY LAID DOWN BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR LEAVE.

5. PARTY'S RELATIONSHIP TO TRADE UNION MOVEMENT MAY PROVE A MAJOR ISSUE. TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, TRADITIONALLY TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY PARTY'S ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, HAS ASSUMED INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN RECENT YEARS IN FINANCING PARTY PRESS AND PARTY ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER INROADS BEING MADE IN LOWER AND MIDDLE LEVEL UNION RANKS BY SF AND DKP. TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP IS CONSEQUENTLY DEMANDING THAT PARTY IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WITH TRADE UNION INTERESTS. DISLOCATION OF EXISTING INTEREST GROUPS BY EMERGENT TRADE UNION FACTION WILL NOT OCCUR WITHOUT INTERNAL STRUGGLE.

6. FOUR-YEAR PARTY PROGRAM IS LIKELY TO BE MODERATE, UNIMAGINATIVE DOCUMENT, SINCE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGE THAT PARTY PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR HEAVY TAXES. PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED RECENTLY THAT PARTY AWARE THAT NECESSITY FOR BUDGETARY RESTRAINT REQUIRES A PAUSE IN REFORM TIMETABLE. ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY, PARTY'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE DURING PAST YEAR, IS STALLED FOR THE PRESENT AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION.

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PAGE 04 COPENH 02225 131825Z

7. FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION WILL MENTION PARTY'S RECENT INCREASED EMPHASIS ON AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND POSSIBLY CRITICIZE ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CHILEAN COUP. RESOLUTION, WILL, AS USUAL, ENDORSE DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO "IN VIEW OF LACK OF VIABLE ALTERNATIVE", BUT WILL CONTAIN NEW ELEMENT IN RECOMMENDATION THAT WITHIN NATO, DENMARK SHOULD WORK TOWARD NEW EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM TO SUPERSEDE BOTH ALLIANCE AND WARSAW PACT. DANISH RELATIONS TO COMMON MARKET, PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF POLITICAL INTEGRATION, WILL BE SUBJECT OF SOME DEBATE.
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